

# Time Line History of Hornell, New York 2022

## Compiled by Collette Cornish, City of Hornell Historian

July 8, 1788 Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham held a treaty with the six nations of Native Americans at Buffalo Creek. Agreement was met for the purchase of one million acres of land.<sup>2,13</sup>

1789 Mr. Phelps opened an office in Canandaigua for the sale of his lands. Twelve partners collectively purchased township No. 3, 5<sup>th</sup> range, and township No. 3, 6<sup>th</sup> range.

Uriah Stephens Sr.

John Jamison

Arthur Erwin

Uriah Stephens Jr.

Joel Thomas

James Hadley

Solomon Bennett

William Wynkoop

John Stephens

Thomas Bennett

Christian Kress

Elisha Brown

It was discovered that the Canisteo flat lands were not included in the purchase so a representative returned to exchange township No. 3 of the 6<sup>th</sup> range (Hartsville) for the township No.4, 6<sup>th</sup> range, which is now Hornellsville.

September 25, 1790 lots were drawn for the ownership of the twelve subdivisions of township No. 4, at the home of Benjamin Crosby.

Benjamin Crosby purchased from Solomon Bennett for the sum of 300 pounds, great lot No. 8 of township No. 4, in the 6<sup>th</sup> range that contained 1,600 acres in what is now the City of Hornell.

In 1790 Benjamin Crosby and his family were the first recorded settlers in the Hornell area. He built his home on the site that is now St. James Mercy Hospital on Canisteo Street. One of Benjamin's sons, Richard Crosby, who came with his father to this area, served in the Revolutionary War as a captain in General Washington's bodyguard.

The Crosby's were soon joined in this area by Oliver Harding and Uriah Stephens.<sup>1</sup>

Solomon Bennett drew lot no.12. He built a log home in the area which would be named for him; Bennettsville, which would later be known as Canisteo. Bennett's Creek, which also bears his name, provided the power for his saw and gristmills, built in 1793. The mills were in business for over a year before being destroyed by fire.<sup>9</sup> Solomon Bennett married Sarah Stephens, daughter of Uriah Stephens Sr.<sup>1</sup>

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1793 George Hornell came and purchased lot No.7 (1,600 acres) from John Stephens for 111 pounds and a silk dress.<sup>5</sup>

George Hornell married Martha Stephens, daughter of Uriah Stephens Sr. (sister of John Stephens). The couple had nine children; five daughters and four sons, with only one of their sons, George Jr., surviving into adulthood. William drowned while attending Williams College, while John, Vincent, and Patience died before the age of twenty-five. Emily Hornell married Dr. J.D.Walker, one of the first physicians in this area. After his death she became the wife of Col. Ira Davenport.<sup>11</sup> Martha Hornell became the wife of Major Thomas J. Reynolds, Betsy Hornell married Dr. Augustus Newell, and Anne Hornell married General Philander Hartshorn<sup>10</sup> and after his death married Mr. Moore<sup>1</sup>

George Hornell built a gristmill, replacing one built by Solomon Bennett which had burned in 1794. He also lived in and kept the first inn in the town. His store was located nearby and he is credited as Hornell's first

postmaster. He served as Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Steuben County in 1796. In 1808 George Hornell became a Member of Assembly for the State of New York. Judge Hornell died in 1813. <sup>1</sup>

**George Hornell** brought slaves with him to this area.<sup>5</sup> It has been recorded that on November 17, 1811, a child, Milo, was born to George Hornell's slave, Milley. Hornell sold Milo to Hadley, of Canisteo, for \$70. After Hornell's death, Milley attempted to run away, but was captured in Palmyra and was returned. Milley made another attempt several years later and succeeded in escaping to freedom. She was the first fugitive slave documented from Hornellsville. <sup>1</sup>

**George Hornell Jr.** became a licensed attorney and minister. George Hornell Jr. married **Sarah Thacher** (daughter of **Nathaniel Thacher**). They had five children; all three sons, George T., William D., and Hastings, died childless, while daughters **Lydia** married **John C. Clark**, and had three children, and **Mary** married **Dr. Albert Hart**, had five children. **Rev. George and Sarah Hornell Jr.** eventually left the area to pursue missionary work among the Native Americans in Michigan. Hornell sold his father's extensive land holding in Hornellsville to his brothers-in-law by marriage **Mowry** and **Otis Thacher**. <sup>4</sup>

**John D. Jamison**, one of the twelve original partners, was a captain in the Revolutionary War at the battle of Fort Washington, which is now New York City. Captain Jamison held the fort until the ammunition was exhausted; he then was taken prisoner and held on the infamous prison ship in New York harbor (HMS Jersey<sup>21</sup>), where he unfortunately contracted a disease that plagued him through the remainder of his life. The famous 'white woman' **Mary Jamison**, is said to be related to John Jamison. <sup>1,10</sup>

In 1796 the first school in the town of Hornellsville and held in what is now the village of Arkport and was taught by Miss **Abigail Hurlbut**. <sup>1</sup>

The first birth was that of William Stephens, in December 1792; the first marriage that of Reuben Crosby and Jenny McQueen, in 1799, and the first death was that of a child of Judge Hornell. <sup>14</sup>

1797 **James McBurney** built his home in Belle Haven, making this the oldest building in the Hornell area still standing today. <sup>5</sup> Mr. McBurney purchased a 1,600 acre lot from Solomon Bennett. Mr. McBurney later journeyed back to his homeland of Ireland to persuade friends to return to America with him. <sup>11</sup>

1799 Religious services were held at the house of Judge Hornell led by Rev. Robert Logan, an itinerant Presbyterian clergyman.

1805 The first school within the village of Hornellsville was taught by Miss **Sarah Thacher**. <sup>1</sup>

1809 The Turnpike Road was laid from Ithaca to Olean. <sup>1</sup>

1813 The first school house was built, with **Dudley Miller** as the teacher. **Uriah Stephens, Jr.** and **George Hornell Jr.** (son of Judge Hornell) were also teachers. It continued to be a common school until 1873, when a graded school and free academy was established. <sup>1</sup>

1814 The first lumber business was established by **Dugald Cameron**, who built a saw mill north of town.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Cameron was one of the earliest surveyors in this area.<sup>12</sup>

In 1815 **Colonel Ira Davenport** came with a wagon load of goods and became Hornellsville's first merchant. He remained in the Hornell area for thirty-two years. After the death of his first wife Emily Hornell, daughter of Judge George Hornell, Col. Ira Davenport married Lydia Cameron, (in 1824) daughter of Dugald Cameron.<sup>12</sup> They moved to Bath in 1847, where he established the Davenport Home for Orphan Girls, and died in 1868 at the age of seventy-three. <sup>1,12</sup>

1816 **Andy Smith** established Hornell's first tannery. <sup>4</sup>

**April 1, 1820 Hornellsville was established.** Seven years after **Judge George Hornell's** death the settlement was named Hornellsville promoted by his son-in-law **Col. Ira Davenport** in honor of Judge George Hornell's achievements and contributions to this community. <sup>1</sup>

**1821** The first town meeting was held to elect officers. **Col. Ira Davenport** was elected first town supervisor. <sup>4</sup>

**1826** Hornell had a population of 125 people, with 25 houses, a tavern, a store, a grist and a saw mill. <sup>5, 4</sup>

In **1828** the first brick building was erected by **Col. Ira Davenport**. It was a combination house and store. Davenport eventually sold the house to his nephew, **Martin Adsit**, who occupied the house for sixty years. The Adsit House was located on the north side of Main Street on the corner of Main Street and Adsit Place, was the oldest known building remaining within the City of Hornell. <sup>4</sup>

**Martin Adsit** was a widely respected member of the community and was considered one of the most important business people in Hornellsville during the nineteenth century. In 1826 at the age of 14, Martin arrived in Hornellsville to work as a clerk in the store of his uncle Ira Davenport. In 1833 at the age of twenty-one, Martin Adsit bought the business and store from his uncle. Under Adsit's direction, the business grew, and in 1848 he expanded to offer the community its first banking institution that was located inside his store. <sup>4</sup>

See more- **2010 The Adsit House** After a long and arduous legal battle between the owners of the home NYDH, Historical Hornell Inc. and the City of Hornell, the Adsit House was demolished on **June 17, 2010**. <sup>16</sup>



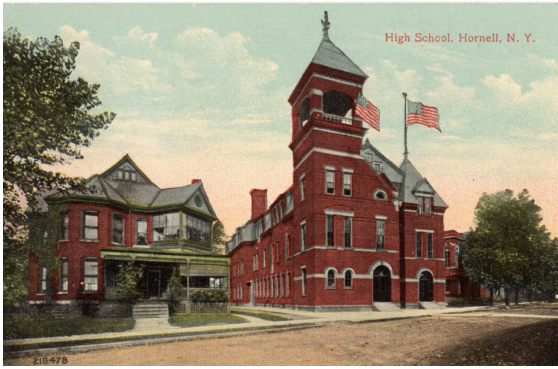
**1830's** Land was being surveyed and considered for construction of the **Erie Railroad**.

**1832** A village park was established, and was later named **Union Park** in 1884. The land was purchased from **Major Thomas Bennett** for the purpose of a public square. <sup>1</sup>

**1841** Construction of the railroad lines began in this area.

**1843** The population was 300 people. Only Broadway, Main, Seneca, and Canisteo Streets had been developed with houses and stores.<sup>6</sup>

**1844** A piece of land was purchased for \$40 for a schoolhouse that was erected between Broad and Canisteo Streets. The school was built by Ira Davenport and measured 32'x28'. Also known as the **Old Park School**, this became **Hornell Free Academy** in 1873, this served as the city's high school from 1886 to 1923, when the present Hornell Intermediate School was built. Historically speaking by R. Oakes



**1850** In only seven years time the population had more than doubled in size from 300 to 700 people. The village contained 100 houses, two churches, two schools, a hotel and one store.<sup>6</sup>

**1850** The first Erie locomotive came into Hornellsville, an Orange No. 4, having won a twenty mile race against a stage coach. <sup>5</sup>



**May 14, 1851 the Erie Railroad comes to Hornellsville!** The first passenger train to travel the entire length of the Erie, from Piermont-on-Hudson to Dunkirk, arrived in Hornellsville, with **President of the United States Millard Fillmore and the Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, on board.** <sup>4</sup>

**1851** The population of Hornellsville before the Erie Railroad came was about 700, by **1852** the population had increased to 1,841.

**November 26, 1851** **Hornellsville Weekly Tribune** was first published by **Edwin Hough**. The newspaper has been published continually since, but with a slight title change to what is currently today **The Evening Tribune**.  
11

**June 28, 1852** **Hornellsville was incorporated into a village**, and then reorganized on **April 9, 1867**. **John H. Lillie** was elected the first president of the incorporated village. Lillie was an enterprising citizen; he erected a number of much needed buildings and then purchased the land that is now Jane, John and Oak Streets and sold them for building lots. He then proceeded to buy what is now largely Grand Street and its vicinity and sold it in the same way for profit.

**1852** On September 27, a meeting was held and it was voted to build walks on Main, Canisteo, Genesee, Cass, Taylor and Albion Streets.

The **Police Commission** was established.

**September 25, 1852** **Hornellsville Fire Department** was first organized. <sup>2</sup>





**1856** The **Hornellsville Agricultural Society** was established and began sponsoring the **Hornellsville Annual Fairs**, which continued to grow and became a highlight in the area, located where what is now the Hornell High School and sports fields. The Fair offered horse and dog races, acrobats and aerial performers, as well as produce and livestock competitions. The Hornellsville Fair of 1888 offered a \$3,000 purse for the winner of the horse race.

**1892** the grounds owned by the Farmers Club went into foreclosure and were purchased by the City of Hornell and named Maple City Park (24.5 acres).

**1903** citizens organized the **Great Hornell Fair** with a motto "The Big 1".<sup>26</sup>

On **September 5, 1908** the double deck grandstand and horse barn burned.

In **1909** a new grand stand was built which could seat 1,800 people.

See more- **November 19, 1916** **Ruth Law** landed at the Hornellsville Fair grounds during her record breaking flight.

The Hornellsville Fair was discontinued in **1921**.<sup>4</sup>

See more- **Feb 22, 1955** **The Great Hornell Fair** grandstands are engulfed in flames and burn to ground.<sup>27</sup>



**1856** **Samuel Hallett** opened the **Bank of Hornellsville** with incorporated concern with \$100,000 capital and authorized to issue currency.<sup>2</sup>

**1863** The **First National Bank of Hornellsville** was established by **Martin Adsit** and **Col. Ira Davenport**. The bank had capital of \$50,000 authorized to issue \$200,000 of stock.<sup>1</sup>

**1865** The population of Hornellsville was 5,338. The single rate of postage on mail letters is three cents through the U.S. Post Office.<sup>14</sup>

**1868** The **Hornell Library** was organized. **Martin Adsit**, the first president of the Library Association was one of the first donors when he gave 16 volumes. It was a pioneer of its kind in Western New York. The library sold certificates for annual and lifetime subscriptions.

To raise funds a series of lectures were held and well-known personalities came to Hornellsville including; **Mark Twain** (author), **Henry Ward Beecher** (preacher and brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe), **Horace Greeley** (founder of the New York Tribune), **P.T. Barnum** (Barnum & Bailey Circus), **Bret Hart** (author and poet), and **Susan B. Anthony** (woman's suffrage).

In **1870** the library had 5,000 books. By **1890** the amount of books had increased to 10,000. The free circulation system was adopted in **1889**. Ultimately the board applied for a donation of \$25,000, from **Andrew Carnegie** and the **Hornell Library was opened in 1911 on Genesee Street.**<sup>4</sup>

In **1975** the Hornell Public Library was added to the National Register of Historic Places.



**1873 Hornell Free Academy** was built (replacing a wooden school built in 1844 Historically speaking by R. Oakes) and then rebuilt in 1886 facing Union Park.<sup>4</sup>

**1873** Miss **Carrie Ostrander** was appointed librarian of the Hornell Public Library with a salary of six dollars a month.<sup>5</sup>

**1873** The **Shattuck Opera House** opens on Broadway in Hornellsville.<sup>4</sup> The Opera House, built by Dr. Sewell Shattuck (Doctor of Dentistry<sup>11</sup>), was the first concrete structure to be built in this section of the country. The building was 100 feet long, 60 feet deep, and 43 feet high with four stories that included an attic; it contained seating capacity for 1,357. At the grand opening seating prices ranged from lower floors at \$1, balcony .75 to .50 and the gallery at .35.<sup>11/15</sup> Later, seating was priced at 20 and 30 cents for choice seats and 10 cents for balcony seating.

The Shattuck Opera House drew in a wide array of talents to the community, including: **Lillian Russell** (actress/singer of stage and film), **Chancellor “Chauncey” Olcott** (singer/songwriter; wrote “My Wild Irish Rose”), **John McCormack** (world famous Irish tenor), **John Sullivan** (Heavyweight Bare-Knuckle Boxing Champion), the **Russian Symphony Orchestra**, and **John Phillip Sousa’s Band**, **Magicians Houdini, Blackstone, Keller, and Herman the Great**, to name a few.

The Shattuck Opera House closed its doors in **1930**, due to the popularity of motion pictures.

The property was sold in **1940** for \$41,283. The Shattuck Opera House was razed and a one story building was erected on the site.<sup>11</sup>



**1875** 100 streets had been laid out within the village.<sup>4</sup>

**Hotel Sherwood** corner of Canisteo and Cass Streets, Hornell NY “The new hotel will be a four-story structure of brick, cut-stone trimmings, and will stand at the corner of Canisteo and Cass Streets. The general façade is broken by detached towers. A portico with artistic columns supports a spacious balcony. The main



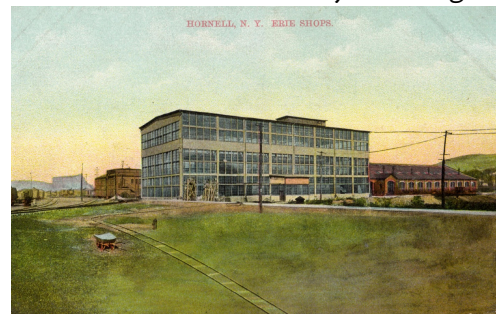
entrance to the hotel office is at the intersection of the two streets. The first floor contains the hotel office, 46 x 19 feet, at the end of which is seen the smoking room through a grilled arch. At the right ascend the main staircase. The dining room has metal ceilings and measures 26 x 40 feet. The kitchen has French ranges and all modern appliances. The smoking room is 22 by 14 feet and the café or bar is 13 by 23 feet, with a carved oak buffet counter and wine rooms. The office will be fitted up in red oak and plate glass. The staircase is of the same material and the walls and ceiling of the office are of hard woods. The entire first floor will have marble mosaic floors with a marble base. The window stools will be of variegated marble slabs, under which will be the ventilators, supplying cold air in summer and heat in winter. The iron columns will be modeled in stucco. The three upper floors all contain single, alcove and double chambers, with both individual and general bath rooms on each floor. Each room has a separate radiator and electric bells. The baths are of porcelain-lined steel. An elevator runs from the basement to the fourth floor, opening at each floor into a reception room. Two light shafts run down the center of the building. The building is also lit by windows on all sides. It will be heated by steam and have electric lights, bells and annunciators throughout. The hotel will cost \$30,000.” Written by W.H. Archer, of Buffalo NY(the architect). (Quoted from an unnamed and undated newspaper clipping) **Built in 1875** (advertisement in The Evening Tribune Centennial edition, sighted the “Hotel Sherwood has (been) in the community for the past 75 years”).

On **May 5, 1972** the Hotel Sherwood held a dance as the final event and a large crowd was on hand for the closing.

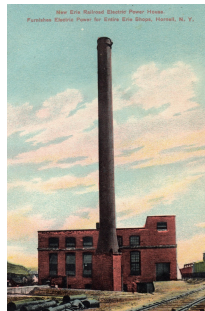
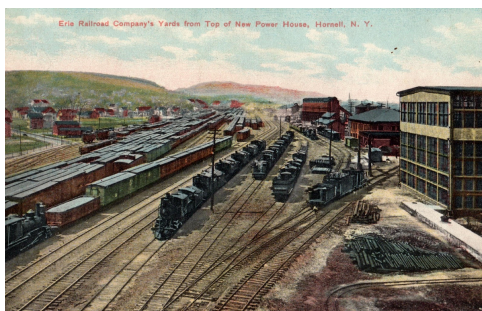
The Hotel Sherwood was razed on **July 25, 1972** in part with Hornell’s Urban Renewal Program.



**1877** The **Erie Railroad** employed 800 people. Erie shop employees worked twelve-hour days for wages as low

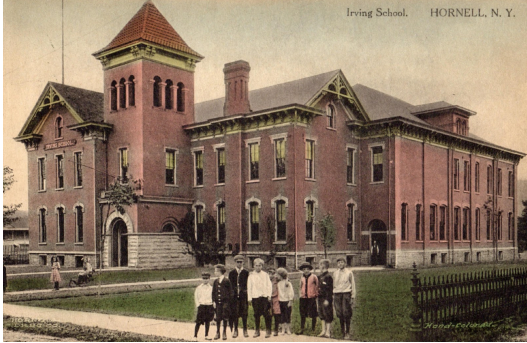


as ten cents an hour. Erie workers took action and voted to strike.



**1877** The **City Hall** municipal building was built on Broad Street.<sup>2</sup>

**1878 Irving School**, located on West Genesee St was built. In **February 1925** a disastrous fire damaged the building. After the fire the auditorium was converted into 13 classrooms. In June **1936** the BOE added an auditorium and gymnasium which was completed in the fall of **1937**. Another serious fire occurred in November **1938**. In **1940** there were approximately 365 students and 12 teachers in Irving School.<sup>20</sup>



**1880** The census counted 8,195 persons within the village of Hornellsville.<sup>4</sup>

**1880** A new brick **Erie Railroad Depot** was built in Hornellsville, which still stands today, after the original depot was completely destroyed by fire on **November 30, 1879**.<sup>4</sup>

**1881 Steuben Telephone Company** started and eight years later, in **1889**, they had sixty subscribers.<sup>4</sup>

**1882** Water service was established in the village by the privately owned **Hornellsville Water Works**.<sup>4</sup>

**July 3, 1882** Hornell's **Union Park**. The land for the park had lain vacant for many years (1932, fifty years). It had been used as a dumping ground for yard waste and had become a public disgrace. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Saturday night, local "wags" placed mock tomb stones on the piles of dirt and written on the boards were the "death" of the President and Members of the Board of Trustees and street superintendent. Sunday morning came and the citizens of Hornellsville were presented with local officials' names on the "tomb stones" in the "cemetery" in the middle of town. This impulsive joke impelled the town officials to clean up the park.

**1884 Union Park** was laid out with flowers, graveled walks and a fountain was placed in the center. The park was named in honor of Civil War Veterans and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated. The monument was a cast iron and zinc fountain purchased from J.W. Fiske, of New York, for \$1500.<sup>4</sup>



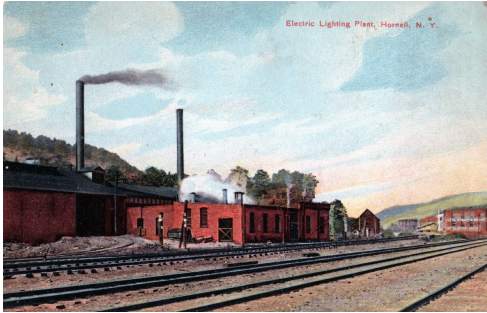
In **1938** the fountain had become neglected and was removed. In its place, a monument was erected to honor Civil and Spanish War Veterans and was dedicated on **November 11, 1939**.<sup>7,11</sup>

**1942** the Hornell Common Council approved to remove the canons from Union Park and street car rails in the Second World War scrap effort.<sup>26</sup>

**1885** The **Hornell Electric Company** was formed and tests were run on Main and Canisteo Streets, City Hall, and Walter Stephen's Meat Market on Broad Street.



One year later on June 1, **1886**, Hornellsville was first lit on the streets by Electric Arc Lights. Attention was then directed to commercial lighting and the **American Illuminating Company** continued to advance. The Board for the American Illuminating Company included; J.M. Finch, F.T. McConnell, F.B. Alley, C.O. Rose and Thos. Grinwood with J.E.B. Santee as Treasure and L.T. Mason as Superintendent, V.P., and Secretary.



**John M. Finch** was another prominent citizen in Hornellsville. John Finch was the son of one of the area's first settlers. He worked for the **Erie Railroad** for over thirty years, and became principal land agent and chief tax officer. He had other business interests including the **Citizens National Bank** and the **American Illumination Company**, which provided Hornellsville with electric service in the late 1880's. Finch served on the village board, and he drafted a new municipal charter. John Finch's civic efforts were instrumental in the development of the **Rural Cemetery**, the **Hornell Public Library**, and the **Steuben Sanitarium**.<sup>4</sup>

**1887 Edwin Brown** brought silk manufacturing from Paterson N.J. and establishes the **Rockland Silk Mill** in Hornellsville. Due to the success of Edwin Brown's Rockland Silk Mill, over 15 mills were established and Hornellsville was known as the "**The City of Silk**" and ranked number two in the nation for silk manufacturing. This industry continued for thirty years; from **1890-1920**.

The four largest silk companies were **Rockland Silk Mills**, the **Glove Factory**, **Merrill Hosiery** and **Huguet Silk Mill**.<sup>4</sup> Other equally established manufactures were **De-Witt-Boag Co.**, **Kayser Julius & Co.**, and **Stern & Stern Textile Inc.** Lesser known mills: Geary Silk Mill, Hickey Freeman Firm, Dolores Dress Company Inc, Liberty Silk Co..



**March 2, 1888** **The City of Hornellsville** was created and incorporated, advancing the hamlet to a municipality.<sup>1</sup>

**1888** The **first city elections** were held, and **Mr. James B. Day** became the **first mayor of the City of Hornellsville**. Mayor Day was born March 29, 1847 in Union, NY. At the age of twenty-one became a police officer in New York City for seven years. After this he came to Hornellsville and engaged in the wholesale wine and liquor business. He also was a chief engineer of the Hornellsville Fire Department for two years. Mayor Day held his office for two consecutive terms.<sup>2, 3, 12</sup>

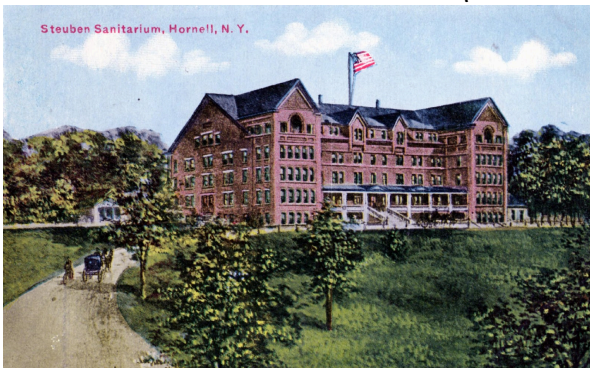
**May 1888** The **Hornellville Electric Street Railroad Company** was established and began operating the first of three street car lines in 1892. Power was furnished by the **American Illumination Company**.<sup>2</sup> With the advent of the automobile, the streetcar service was discontinued in 1927.<sup>4</sup>



**1890** The **Steuben Sanitarium**, North Main Hornell NY, was established to treat chronic diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, alcoholism and mental illness. The facility was positioned 1,400 feet above sea level and 200 feet above the city of Hornellsville, located off North Main Street, and remained in operation until the 1920's. It had its own private electric plant and contained 101 bedrooms, each with running water, which was a luxury in that time. The sanitarium was kept at a perfect 70 degrees Fahrenheit and had a "pure air" total facility system that circulated new air every ten minutes (exterior rotary fan). It had an elevator, and every form of Bath: Turkish, Russian, and Roman. The facility boasted of having a personal team consisting of sixteen consultants, trained nurses and attendants with doctors on duty at all times.<sup>8</sup> The most prominent physician was **Dr. Roswell Park**.<sup>4</sup>

In the **1909** Hornell Directory "When you are ill, go to the STEUBEN SANITARIUM and get well. A Sanitarium, a Hospital and a Home without any of the Unpleasant Features of a Hospital."

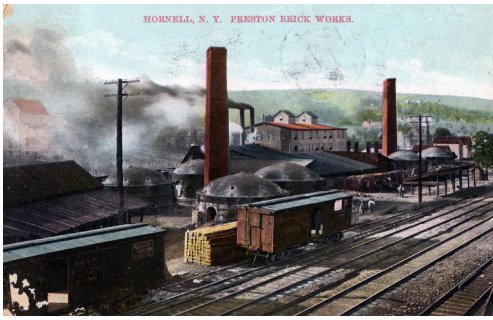
"Steuben Sanitarium L.W. Rockwell pres, Dr. J E Walker v pres and supt F C Prindle sec and treas"



**1890** The census recorded 11,000 persons living within the city of Hornellsville.

**1890** The **Preston Brick Works** located on N. Main near Steuben, was founded by **Othaniel Preston Sr.** and his sons, **Henry C.** and **Othaniel Jr.**, they manufactured paving, building and sidewalk bricks from local shale. The firm employed twenty-five men.<sup>2</sup> The Preston's also owned and operated the **Hollow Cable Manufacturing Company**, located on Thacher and State, which manufactured wire clothes lines, wire box bands, wire carpet whips and fencing wire.





**1891** Hornellsville had grown to contain; three large hotels, four banks, five silk mills, a planning mill and sash factory, a flour mill, a tannery, two fence and cable factories, a carriage works, a creamery, a machine gear works, several woodworking factories, a fairground with horse racing park, a shoe factory and an opera house. <sup>4</sup>

**1893** **Columbian School**, 25 Pearl St, was built and originally contained 9 classrooms. In **1927** an addition of 4 rooms (library and teachers' rooms) was built. In **1930** Columbian School had 230 students from kindergarten to sixth grades.<sup>20</sup> **1931** a playground was built. **1964** a new Columbian School one story building was erected. **2004** Hornell City School District will no longer utilize Columbian School as an elementary school. In **2020** Colombian School is leased to ProAction, Pathways and Greater Southern Tier BOCES.

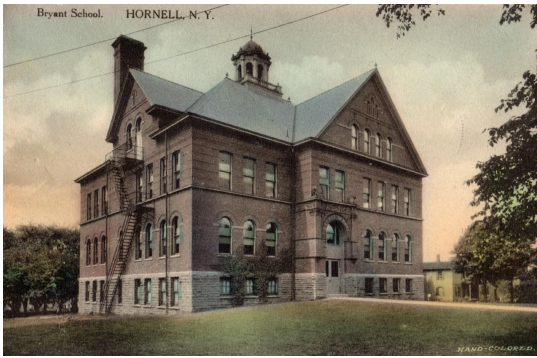


**1896** The **National Guard of New York Armory**, 100 Seneca Street Hornell, was constructed; it was designed by I.G. Perry. <sup>4</sup> The armory was added to the National Register of Historic Places in **1980**.

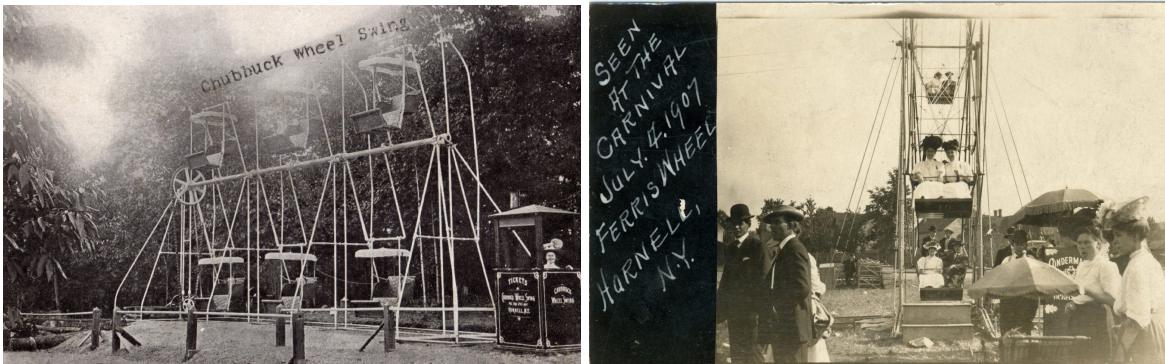


**1899** **Bryant School** 173 Terry St. was built containing 10 classrooms, auditorium and library. There were approximately 360 students in grades kindergarten through sixth.<sup>20</sup>  
*See more- **June 2021** Bryant School is closed and sold to Park Grove Realty of Rochester NY to be developed into apartments.*





**1899** The brothers **Jay and Will Conderman** of Hornellsville designed and manufactured **The Conderman Wheel** at their **Conderman Carriage and Wagon Manufacture's Shop** located on the corner of Seneca and Maple Street. Jay Conderman filed for a patent on September 4, **1900** for the pleasure wheel and patent no. 669, 621 was granted on March 12, **1901** for a portable and easily assembled wheel for convenient traveling venues.<sup>22</sup> The Condermans continued to manufacture The Conderman Wheel until a fire destroyed the shop (before 1909).<sup>23</sup>



**1900** Population of the City of Hornellsville was 14,000. <sup>6</sup>

**April 10, 1901** The first automobile arrived in Hornell. The owner of the Winton car, believed to cost \$1200, was **Augustus McHenry**. This day was also the first automobile accident, when Mr. McHenry ran into the curb during his trial run of the car.<sup>5</sup>

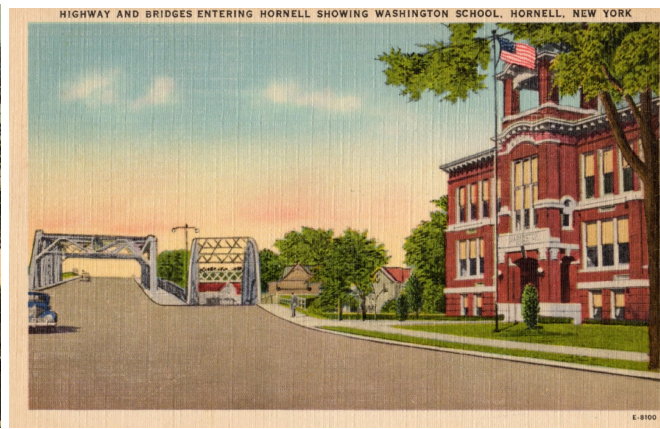
**February 1, 1905** **Shawmut Train Crashed Into a Sleigh at Stephens Crossing.** Tragedy struck as horse drawn sleighs traveling with women from the local Universalist Church, were struck by a train on the Stevens' Crossing west of Hornell killing a total of ten women, six women died at the accident site and four latter at St James Hospital.<sup>25</sup>

**1906** **The City of Hornellsville** becomes the **City of Hornell** New York.

**1907** **Hornell's Pet Cemetery**, Friendship Grove, on Bald Hill just outside of Hornell, was started by **Mr. Frank Myers** when his favorite dog Trix died. Today the cemetery is reputed to have more than 900 animals laid to rest, including canaries, monkeys, a horse and a lion among the cats and dogs.<sup>6</sup>

**September 22, 1907** Hornell Erie Coal Pockets burned down.

**1909** **Washington School** was built. It contained 11 classrooms and a library. Extensive repairs were made in **1926**. Washington School had approximately 125 students serving kindergarten to third grade. The rest of the rooms in this building are occupied by seventh graders of the Junior High School.<sup>20</sup>



**1909 The A. J. Deer Co.** factory was located between the railroad tracks on West Street in Hornell NY. **The A. J. Deer Co.** originated as the firm of **Bartz, Evans & Wygant** the late 1890's, doing electrical repairs and contract work, and by 1905 began manufacturing motors and were hailed as "having the most modern and thoroughly equipped shops in central New York"<sup>1</sup>. By 1909 **Bartz, Wygant & Brown** were making the Royal electric specialties products which were distributed by A. J. Deer Co. of Buffalo and in the same year reorganized to become **The A. J. Deer Co., Inc, Hornell NY**. Fifteen years later The A. J. Deer Company expanded the factories in order to handle the orders for the Royal machines and boast that "today there is not a country on the face of the earth where one of these Royal machines is not in operation." The A. J. Deer Company found success by manufacturing over 150 types of coffee mills, coffee roasting machines, meat choppers and meat slicing machines on the installment plan, revolutionizing the former practice of selling coffee mills through hardware wholesalers. The A. J. Deer Co. attributed the success of these Royal Coffee Mills to the steel knives that cut the coffee instead of crushing or grinding. The company stated 'put a pound of whole coffee in and get a pound of cut coffee out' with no waste of coffee bean, with a safe self-cleaning machine, noiseless and which automatically oils itself. The A. J. Deer Co., Inc, dissolved in bankruptcy in 1931.



**1912 The Hornell YMCA** is built on Center Street.<sup>4</sup>

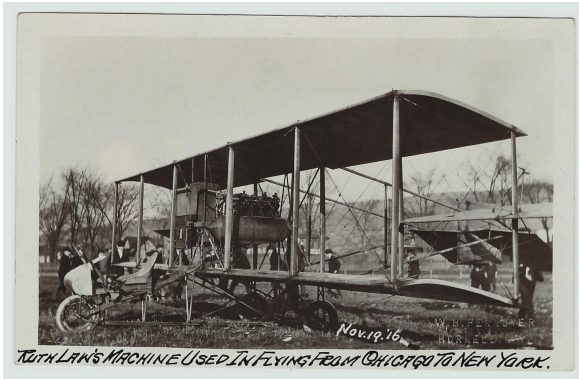


**November 19, 1916 Ruth Law**, daring aviatrix, leaves Chicago IL at 8:25 am and lands at the Hornell fairgrounds at 2:10 pm in her Curtiss scout bi-plane after achieving the longest non-stop flight on record from



Chicago to Hornell and the world longest flight for a woman. She set the record from Chicago IL to Hornell NY with her flight of 590 miles and with the total of five hours and 41 minutes in the air.<sup>6</sup> While in Hornell NY where her plane was being refueled (53 gallons of gas) and checked, Ruth Law was taken into town to a local restaurant to warm up and have a bite to eat. Ruth Law calls the trip of 590 miles flying in an open bi-plane from Chicago to Hornell at 103 miles an hour “just fun”. Delayed starting her journey in Chicago by 1 ½ hours due to weather, Ruth Law had planned to stop in Hornell NY to refuel, but had planned her day’s journey to end in New York City instead of Binghamton NY.

See more- **November 2019** City of Hornell Historian Collette Cornish unveiled a Pomeroy Foundation Historical Marker to honor Ruth Law.



RUTH LAW'S MACHINE USED IN FLYING FROM CHICAGO TO NEW YORK.

### March 14, 1918 Flooding hits Hornell



MAIN ST. FLOODED, 3-14-'18-HORNELL, N.Y.

1920 Influenced by the railroad and railroad employees Hornell began attracting commerce.

**November 11, 1923** The Elmhurst Dairy Inc. purchased a lot at 59 Erie St Hornell for their new plant. The Elmhurst Dairy Inc. was started in 1914 by Harold Ranger.<sup>11</sup>

**November 24, 1923** Hornell Intermediate School was built. Erected in the lot formally of the Hornell Free Academy, it was built originally as the Hornell High School. In 1930 a 15 room addition to the Hornell Intermediate School was completed.<sup>20</sup>



**1923-24** the new **Lincoln School**, 373 Canisteo St, was built, following a fire that completely destroyed the old Lincoln School which was the oldest public grammar school in Hornell. The Old Lincoln School was a one room wooden school with a lean-to added for a recitation area was built in **1872**. Additions were added to this building and continued to be used until a fire destroyed the building on **February 6, 1923**. Historically speaking by R. Oakes. The new Lincoln School contains 19 classrooms, auditorium and gymnasium, and library. In 1940 there were approximately 500 students from kindergarten to sixth grades.<sup>20</sup> It remained a grade school from **1924** until **1979**. St James Mercy Hospital had offices in the old Lincoln School building until **2012**. In **2015** Lincoln School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In **2017** Lincoln school was renovated into **Lincoln Gardens Senior Living Community Apartments**, 25 apartments for seniors by the owner, developer and manager; Edgemere Development, Inc., of Rochester.



**1927** The old **North Hornell School**, Seneca St., was built on a site formerly occupied by a rural schoolhouse. The new **North Hornell School** was built on Avondale Ave in **1961**. Historically speaking by R.Oakes

**1935** **The most severe flooding hits Hornell.** Most of the city lay under six feet of water, closing the railroad and leaving 1,000 people homeless. As a result of this disaster, The United States Army Corps of Engineers constructed several major flood-control projects in the Canisteo watershed. Earthen flood-control dams were completed at **Arkport in 1939** and in **Almond in 1949**. Within the city, the Kanakadea Creek and the Canisteo River were controlled by levees and retaining walls. Due to these improvements, Hornell was spared from the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Agnes in 1972.<sup>4</sup>



**1940** The population of the City of Hornell had declined to 15,649.<sup>4</sup>



**1948** The **Erie Railroad** switched from steam to diesel locomotives. The diesel engines required much less maintenance, meaning that hundreds of men working in the Hornell repair shops were eventually laid off. These layoffs marked the beginning of the railroad's demise.<sup>4</sup>

**1950** Population of Hornell was 15,000.<sup>4</sup>

**May 26, 1950** Hornell's **Starlight Drive In** was built by the Ryan brothers and opened May 26, 1950. The drive-in had a capacity of 550 cars. The movies showing were "The Untamed Breed" starring Sonny Tufts, Barbara Britton and George 'Gabby' Hayes. The co-feature was "Blondies Secret" which was based on the comic strip Blondie. The cost was 50 cents per person plus tax. Children under 12 were free. The last movies played there the weekend of **September 21, 1975**. The movies shown were "Girl in Room 2A" subtitled "A Prison in Hell". The co-feature was another R rated movie called the Virgin Witch. (It is where **Aldi** is now)

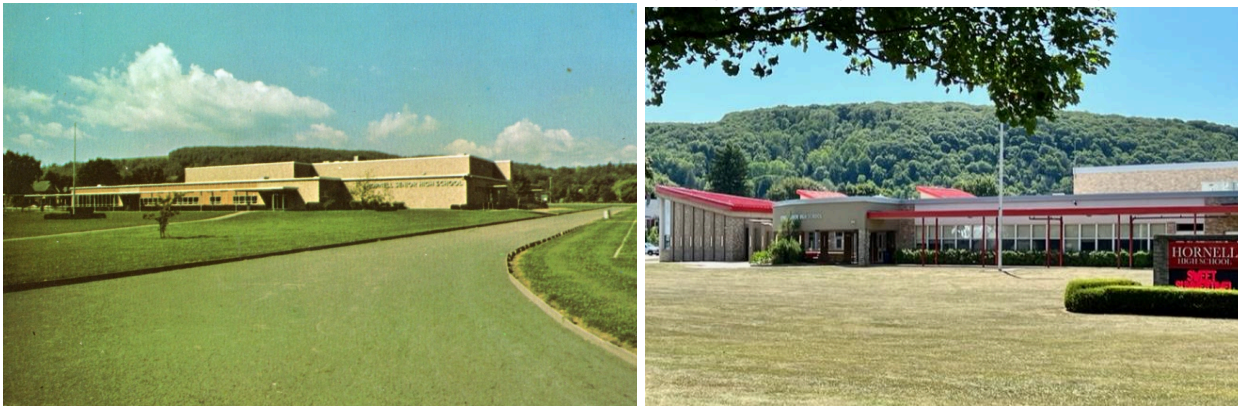
Jan 12 2012 Donald.Carapella

**1951** Hornell celebrates its centennial on **July 15-21** with a city wide **Hornell Centennial Celebration** with centennial celebratory buttons, hats, an Official Program "Echoes of the Past" 100 Years of Progress, parades and entertainment.

**Feb 22, 1955** The **Great Hornell Fair** grandstands are engulfed in flames and burn to the ground.

**1960** The **Erie Railroad** merged with the **Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad** becoming the **Erie Lackawanna Railroad**. The company's accounting office in Hornell was closed.<sup>4</sup>

**1964 June** **Hornell High School** Seneca St had its first graduating class in the new high school.



**1965** The first **Wegmans** grocery store outside of Rochester NY was built in The Big N Plaza 7309 Seneca Rd Hornell NY. <sup>29</sup>

**1966** 85 acres of land was purchased for \$62,500 by the school district for the proposed site of the **BOCES** (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) building facilities on the land of the former **Steuben Sanitarium**. The **Steuben Sanitarium** was razed in **1967**.

**1968** Plans were approved and construction started for the new pedestrian underpass on Buffalo Street under the train tracks. The former underpass allowed vehicle, pedestrian, and trolley access.

**December 31, 1969** **Erie-Lackawanna Railroad** passenger service was discontinued.<sup>4</sup> The exception of this was train number 5 and 6, which ran until January 4, 1970 for holiday travel.

**June 1972** **Hurricane Agnes** hits the east coast. The subsequent damage to the rail lines led to the bankruptcy of the **Erie Lackawanna Railroad**. The Erie line was taken over by the federally subsidized **Conrail**. Conrail reduced rail service, cut employment and closed the repair shops, changing Hornell forever.<sup>4</sup>

**1972** Construction began on the new highway **Maple City Drive**. The highway required the demolition of 245 houses and many commercial buildings, split the city in half, and sacrificed Hornell's Union Park.<sup>4</sup>

**1990** The population of Hornell was 9,500.<sup>4</sup>

**1991 March 17, 1991** has the worst ice storm in decades, coating everything in the city with up to a quarter of an inch of ice.

**1995 November 1, 1995** **Walmart** opened in the Hornell Plaza 1000 NY-36 Hornell  
**Wegmans** relocates and expands its store to 1000 NY-36 Hornell NY

**1998** The **City of Hornell** installed curbing, decorative lighting, and fencing along Main Street and a portion of the arterial to improve the appearance of the central part of the city.<sup>4</sup>

**2000 September** **Peebles** opens at 33 Broadway Mall in the former JC Penny's building. In **2013** Peebles remodels and expands the store. **February 18, 2019** The Hornell Peebles department store on 33 Broadway Mall closes and reopens as **Gordmans**. **May 12, 2020** The department store **Gordmans**, formally Peebles, of 33 Broadway Mall Hornell NY closes.

**July 24, 2001** The **Shawmut Skate Park** opens. The Hornell Kiwanis Club was the first and foremost supporter of the skate park, helped with a donation from an anonymous Hornell resident, and with additional donations from the Hornell Association and Elks, the Hornell and Canisteo American Legions, and the Maple City Lions Club, the Hornell Police Club and the Steuben County Deputies Association. The City of Hornell contributed the concrete pad with additional state park funds supported by Sen. Randy Kuhl.<sup>18</sup> In **October 11, 2004** the city of Hornell further developed the park adding a maintenance building and bathrooms, playgrounds and pavilions. <sup>19</sup>

**2006** The **Hornell Erie Depot Museum** located at 111 Loder Street has its grand opening. Mayor Shawn Hogan was instrumental in forming the museum which showcases Hornell Erie Railroad memorabilia and photographs.

**December 12, 2008** Hornell's **Bryne Dairy** (former Elmhurst) closed its drive through on Seneca St and store on Center St.

**2009** **Lowe's** Home Improvement store opened August 6, 2009 at 949 State Route 36 Hornell NY  
**Applebee's Grill and Bar** restaurant opened August 2009 at 1006 NY-36 Hornell NY

**2010** **The Evening Tribune**, located on 85 Canisteo St, has its last printed newspaper printed in Hornell on **May 23, 2010**, thus ending a continuous run of 159 years of in house printing. The Evening Tribune offices will continue to be in Hornell, but the printing of the newspaper will be done at the Gatehouse Production facility in Canandaigua NY. Also in **May 2010**, The Evening Tribune reformatted its size to a slimmer paper.

**The Adsit House** After a long and arduous legal battle between the owners of the home NYDH, Historical Hornell Inc. and the City of Hornell, the Adsit House was demolished on **June 17, 2010**. Built in 1828 by Col. Ira Davenport, it was the first brick building in Hornell and originally utilized as his home and store. Eventually Col. Davenport sold the home to his nephew, Martin Adsit, who occupied it for sixty years. The Adsit House of 32-34 Main Street, located at the corner of Main and Adsit Streets, was the oldest known building remaining within the City of Hornell.<sup>4</sup> It was added to the National Register of Historic Places by its previous owner, Mr. Randie Brewer, in 2003. In 2006, NYDH, a partnership between Hornell real estate agent Doug Hess and Elmira developer Nick Yunis, purchased the property for \$185,000 with plans to demolish the building for redevelopment. <sup>16</sup>

**Aug 3, 2010** The Hornell United States Post Office located on Genesee Street will be officially renamed the **Zachary Smith Post Office** in honor of U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Zachary D. “Zach” Smith. Zach Smith, a 19 year old 2008 Hornell High School graduate was killed on January 24 by an explosive device during a battle with militants on one of his first days of patrol. Smith, the son of Chris and Kim Smith and husband of Anne Smith, all of Hornell, was assigned to the Marine’s 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, and was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart on behalf of President Obama and the Marine Corps. 17



**July 12, 2011** Hornell’s new **YMCA** opens. The new facility houses the Fletcher Family Cultural Center which offers music and arts programs.

**August 2011** a retort was constructed in Hope Cemetery. The crematorium is located in the former maintenance building at the cemetery.

**April 22, 2012** The Hornell Board of Public Works renamed Shawmut Park to the “**Mike C. Fucci Memorial Park at Shawmut**” to honor Michael C. Fucci. Mike worked at the state Department of Transportation as an engineer, and was commissioner on the Hornell Board of Public Works, also chairman of Hornell’s Sport Night.

In **April 2012** the Hornell City School’s maintenance building (formally the DeWitt-Boag Mill, 22-24 Allen St.) was razed. The school maintenance office and operations have moved to a building on Bank Street, (formally the Merrill Hosiery, 24-40 Bank St). The area which formerly was the maintenance building now houses the schools underground cooling tanks.

**May 7, 2012** The 1935 wing of the **Hornell Intermediate School** was deemed unsafe and subsequently removed. Previously the school held grades 3 through 6, but with the loss of the wing now houses only grades 4 through 6.

**2012** Solar panels are placed on the roof of Hornell City Hall and at the Hornell Waste Water Treatment plant through a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

**June 2012** Hornell’s Roman Catholic **St. Ann School**, located at 27 Erie Ave, a private coed school which served grades PK-6 closed its doors after 149 years.

**July 2012** The **St Ann’s Academy**, located on Genesee St., was established. St Ann’s Academy was granted a provisional charter by the NYSED. They have a Pre-K program and a kindergarten through sixth grade school.





**August 2012** Under an order from New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo the Hornell Urban Renewal Agency has been dismantled. Hornell Urban Renewal was responsible for implementing Highway 36 through Hornell which split the city and led to the demise of many stately homes and the loss of Union Park.

**2012** The Grand Street Bridge is demolished and replaced.

**June 2013** The old **YMCA** building built in 1912 is demolished to make room for the construction of a wing to house the new YMCA pool.

**2013** The North Hornell Bridge is demolished and replaced. The State Route 36 overpass bridge in the center of Hornell received major repairs; the state replaced the concrete deck.

**July 8, 2013** **The Evening Tribune** moves from their home on 85 Canisteo Street after 162 years (1851) to 32 Broadway Mall. This move was attributed to downsizing and building maintenance concerns.

**2014** **YMCA** opens their new pool.

**2014** Hornell Waste Material moved from the north end of Hornell to the south end.

**2014** **Alstom** has brought back its work force in Hornell with new rail contracts. Alstom's Hornell facility refurbished rail vehicles and components to New York City Transit (NYCT), Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), New Jersey Transit (NJT) and Amtrak. New contacts include with the City of Ottawa, Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) in Philadelphia, Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, and Baltimore's Maryland Transit Authority.

**2015** The **Federation Building Lofts** was fully refurbished and renovated by Krog Corporation, Buffalo NY. They renovated the auditorium, which can be used for community events, and have nine apartments on the three top



floors with retail space on the first floor.

**December 2017** **Mayor Shawn Hogan**, the longest running Mayor in New York State, retires after 8 terms with 32 years of continuous service to the Hornell community. Shawn Hogan was born and raised in Hornell, and in 1985 started his career as Mayor of Hornell at the age of 33. Shawn Hogan is a second generation Mayor of Hornell with his father Frances P. (Dye) Hogan mayor for one term in 1952. Hogan will continue to finish

projects he developed during his term by working for the Industrial Development Agency. Some of his greatest accomplishments include the \$2.5 billion dollar Alstom contract, the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, UR St. James Mercy Hospital, new housing and commercial projects, growing infrastructure, and a stable budget.<sup>32</sup>

**June 15, 2018** **The Evening Tribune** Sunday through Friday paper has changed its name to **The Spectator** and will publish Tuesday through Friday with a Sunday edition.

**August 2018** City of Hornell Historian Collette Cornish unveiled a Pomeroy Foundation Historical Marker in front of the Hornell Public Library, 64 Genesee St, to honor the life and contributions of **Anna Cadogan Etz**. Anna Cadogan Etz (1863-1953), of 86 Genesee St Hornell NY, was the founder of the Hornell Equality League of Self-Supporting Women and an active member of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association. She gave speeches, attended rallies and wrote newspaper columns that helped women gain the right to vote in New York State.

**2019 The Fairlawn Hills** on 135 Fairlawn Avenue, Hornell, NY from the Riedman Corp of Rochester NY opens a 60 unit apartment complex with clubhouse, community room and fitness center. Pet -friendly buildings and a corporate furnished apartment program are available. Riedman Corp plans to open an additional 60 units in 2020.

**Residences at Hornell** 100 Residence Rd, Hornell, NY from the Basset Realty, Inc. of Rochester NY opened 60 unit apartment complex in Hornell by the Hornell Airport. Basset Realty, Inc. plans to open an additional 60 units in 2020.

**November 17, 2019** Fire destroys five homes on Preston Ave, Hornell NY. The fire was said to start in an upstairs area at 11 Preston Ave and quickly spread to engulf a total of three homes and subsequently damaged an additional two. City of Hornell will place a BOCES built home in 2022 in the cleared area, with plans to place the second BOCES home in 2023.

**November 19, 2019** City of Hornell Historian Collette Cornish unveiled a Pomeroy Foundation Historical Marker to honor Ruth **Law's** historical flight and landing in Hornell. The plaque is located in front of the Hornell City School Sport Field formally the Hornellsville Agricultural Society and Fair, Seneca St Hornell NY.

**2020 March 17, 2020 University of Rochester St. James Hospital 7329 Seneca Road North Hornell opened the new hospital** 87,000-square-foot hospital. The project began several years ago with a collaboration among local legislators, community members, and St. James leadership, who worked with state officials to secure \$63 million in funding for the project and preserve critical health care services in Hornell. Construction began in late 2017. The inpatient unit has 15 beds, features new monitoring equipment, and each room is equipped with comfortable recliners if families wish to stay overnight with their loved one. Emergency department with 8 treatment bays, 4 observation rooms, trauma room, 2 entrances (walk-in and ambulance), and helipad located at the north end of the building. The surgical suite has 4 operating rooms, 13 pre- and post-op beds in walled cubicles, and a large family waiting room. The Imaging services features brand-new equipment (including full-time MRI), also Laboratory service, a pharmacy, Infusion services Cafeteria, chapel, and gift shop.

**2020** the City of Hornell replaces two major bridges: the Seneca Street Bridge over Kanecadea Creek, and the East Main Street over Chancy Run.

**March 17, 2020** **COVID** impacts our community with the temporary closing of Hornell City Schools (ultimately implementing remote learning), closing of public areas in city, County and State playgrounds and parks, restricted access to local and state government facilities, and the restrictions and closures of local restaurants

and bars. Center for Disease and Control (CDC) mandated face covering, washing/sanitizing of hands and surfaces.

**2020** Land cleanup on the site of the former **Hornell Manufactured Gas Plant** on Franklin St., located behind the Maple City Inn, by National Fuel and Department of Environmental Conservation. Hornell Manufactured Gas Plant was in production from 1873 to 1932. "The gas manufacturing processes involved heating coal and/or petroleum products to produce a gas mixture. Once cooled and purified, the gas was distributed through a local pipeline network throughout the city of Hornell. The gas was used for heating and cooking. In the early years, the gas was also used for lighting in homes and in streetlights." Reported by Neal Simon and Madonna Figura Simon 33

**Jan 13, 2021** Alstom has been awarded a \$1.8 billion contract with Metra to replace the aging railcars in Chicago. The contract will be for 200 cars to be made in Hornell, leading to additional 250 jobs in the Hornell shops. 28

**March 2021** Marking the first anniversary of COVID worldwide, precautions are still in effect one year later. Hornell City School District continues the school year with remote learning with plans to bring students back full time in all schools by May 2021. COVID vaccinations become available.

**June 2021** Bryant Elementary School closes. The school has been sold to Park Grove Realty with plans for renovation into moderate income housing.

**2021** **Lofts at Rockland Silk Mill**, 18 North Main Street Hornell open. The former Rockland Silk Mill (built in 1894), refurbished and renovated by PG Rockland Silk Mill LLC, is a division of Park Grove Realty of Rochester NY, into 23 one and two bedroom apartments.

## **Collette Cornish     2022** **City of Hornell Historian**

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32 Winthrop Street Rochester, New York 14607
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9. Then and Now History of the Valley By Tim Crowe
10. Reminiscences of the Canisteo Valley Deacon Mowry Thacher 1865
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12. Historical Gazetteer of Steuben County, NY By Millard F. Roberts M.F. Roberts Publisher Syracuse NY 1891
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25. The Evening Tribune clip The Great Hornell Fair by Jim Hogan TET undated newspaper clip
26. The Evening Tribune clip "Cannon, Street car Rails going in Scrap Drive" 10.29.1942
27. The Evening Tribune clip Feb 22, 1955 The Great Hornell Fair grandstands are engulfed in flames and burn to ground.
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